

## Message Text

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DEP. ASST. TO SECDEF:MR. GAFFNEY

JCS/J-5:GEN. CHRISTENSEN (INFORMED)

PM/ISP:LBROWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125140

E.P. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: US PROPOSALS ON NATO DEFENSE PLANNING SYSTEM

1. REQUEST MISSION RELEASE TO SECRETARY GENERAL, DPC  
PERMREPS AND CHAIRMAN OF MILITARY COMMITTEE THE FOLLOWING  
US PROPOSALS ON CHANGES TO THE NATO DEFENSE PLANNING  
SYSTEM.

BEGIN TEXT:

NATO DEFENSE PLANNING SYSTEM PROPOSALS BY THE UNITED STATES

PURPOSE: THE CHANGES PROPOSED BELOW TO THE NATO FORCE  
PLANNING SYSTEM EXPAND THE PLANNING AND REVIEW CYCLE  
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TO INCLUDE COVERAGE OF BOTH NATIONAL FORCES FOR NATO AND

NATO COLLECTIVE PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMON DEFENSE. THE PROPOSALS CONTINUE THE DETAILED REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCES EACH FALL AND INSTITUTIONALIZE A CORRESPONDING REVIEW OF SUPPORTING NATO PROGRAMS EACH SPRING, EXAMINING SUPPORTING PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF EXISTING AND PROGRAMMED FORCES. THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE CHANGES IS TO IDENTIFY THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE FORCES AND OF THE SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AS THEY INTERACT, AND THUS TO PERMIT MINISTERS TO SET OR MODIFY OVERALL DEFENSE PRIORITIES. A RELATED STAFF STUDY COVERING THE PROPOSALS IN GREATER DETAIL IS BEING FURNISHED TO NATIONAL DELEGATIONS.

PROPOSALS:

- A. THE CURRENT ANNUAL FALL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS AND AN ADDITIONAL ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW OF NATO DEFENSE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF AN IMPROVED NATO DEFENSE PLANNING SYSTEM.
- B. THE CURRENT STEPS LEADING TO THE ANNUAL FALL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS (MILITARY AND ECONOMIC APPRECIATIONS, MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, MNC FORCE PROPOSALS, MC FORCE PROPOSALS, DRAFT FORCE GOALS, FORCE GOALS) WOULD BE RETAINED, BUT IN THE FUTURE THE FORCE GOALS SHOULD GO INTO EFFECT A YEAR LATER THAN CURRENTLY PROVIDED, E.G., FORCE GOALS TO BE ADOPTED IN SPRING 1976 WOULD COVER THE PERIOD 1978-1983, IN ORDER TO PERMIT NATIONS TO TAKE NATO FORCE GOALS MORE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN NATIONAL PLANNING.
- C. THE PROPOSED ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS WOULD DEAL ONLY WITH DEFENSE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING OR RELATED TO FORCE CAPABILITIES (INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, CRISIS MANAGEMENT, CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING, COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS, COOPERATION IN LOGISTICS), AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE NATO FORCE PLAN ADOPTED BY MINISTERS THE PREVIOUS DECEMBER. THE SPRING REVIEW WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP AS APPROPRIATE.
- D. SPECIAL STUDIES ON DEFENSE PROBLEMS, OUTSIDE THE BASIC CYCLE OF REVIEW OF FORCE PLANS IN THE FALL AND REVIEW OF SUPPORTING OR RELATED DEFENSE PROGRAMS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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- SPRING, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AS REQUIRED, WITH RESULTS BEING BROUGHT INTO PLANNING FOR FORCES OR PLANNING FOR SUPPORTING PROGRAMS AS APPROPRIATE. THE SPECIAL POSITION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AS PRINCIPAL MILITARY ADVISORS TO THE COUNCIL/DPC WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND IN ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDIES.
- E. IN ORDER TO PERMIT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CARRY OUT A MORE RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN DEFENSE PLANNING, MAJOR

DEFENSE ACTIONS FOR THEIR REVIEW OR APPROVAL SHOULD BE SCHEDULED SO AS TO PERMIT A MONTH FOR ACTION BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES.  
END TEXT.

2. RELEASE SHOULD BE MADE BEFORE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING.

3. COPIES OF RELATED STAFF STUDY REFERRED TO IN LAST SENTENCE OF FIRST PARAGRAPH OF TEXT BROUGHT TO MISSION BY MR. MCLAUGHLIN. THESE SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME DISTRIBUTION, BUT NEED NOT BE RELEASED BEFORE DPC MINISTERIAL.

4. WE ENVISAGE EXAMINATION OF US PROPOSALS BY DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, POSSIBLY WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES, AFTER THE DPC MINISTERIAL. WE SEE THE TEXT QUOTED ABOVE AS THE ACTIONPAPER; THE STAFF STUDY IS AN INTERNAL US STUDY DISTRIBUTED FOR INFORMATION BEGIN FYI AND FOR GENERAL GUIDANCE OF THE US SPOKESMAN IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION END FYI. US WOULD OF COURSE WELCOME ANY MINISTERIAL COMMENT ON THE US PROPOSALS AT THE JUNE 14 MEETING.

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